

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – APRIL 2, 2012

NAMING OF STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PONDS AND ASSOCIATED SIGNAGE

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends that Council approve:

1. The proposed policy for naming stormwater management ponds as outlined in this report;
2. The Storm Water Management Pond sign design, consistent with other City signing, and reflecting the growing emergence of operating stormwater ponds as community amenities, as depicted in Attachment 2; and
3. That the Additional Resource Request for \$309,955 be considered as part of draft 2012 Water and Wastewater Budget submitted for Council consideration.

Contribution to Sustainability

Storm water management ponds are vital in mitigating the threat of flooding, by slowing the flow of water into local creeks and rivers.

In the report titled "CREATING A SENSE OF PLACE: ASSIGNING A DISTINCT NAME TO ALL STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PONDS ON PUBLIC LANDS IN THE CITY OF VAUGHAN" it was also indicated that, *"Such ponds, as a feature of the local landscape, have another, as yet unacknowledge benefit: they introduce water and greenery into neighbourhoods, softening our environment, and increasing the pleasant feel of any area, especially as the trees and other greenery which ring each pond mature and add height and depth to the local landscape---all of which contributes to sustainable urban and suburban living."*

Economic Impact

The financial impact of the proposed signage would be \$280,000 for the signs and \$29,955 for seasonal labourers to install these signs, bringing the total cost to \$309,955.

As part of the 2012 Water/Wastewater Budget, an Additional Resource Request has been submitted that would provide funding to install 140 signs, based on the sign shown in Attachment 2.

Funding would be from the Water and Wastewater Budget.

Communications Plan

Conditional upon the approval of the Additional Resource Request contained in the 2012 Water and Wastewater Budget for funding of this project, Public Works will work with Corporate Communications to develop a communications strategy to advise the public, and map producers and providers, of this initiative.

Purpose

To obtain Council approval of the proposed storm water management pond naming policy, and, obtain Council direction with respect to choosing the type of sign to be installed at the City's storm water management ponds.

Background - Analysis and Options

Item 24, Report No. 36, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on July 13, 2010, recommended:

- "1) that appropriate staff bring forward a policy for assigning place names to each of the 120 storm water management ponds that are on public land within the City of Vaughan and/or are managed by the City of Vaughan; and*
- 2) that a simple, low-cost sign, similar to local street name signs, be posted at each pond, facing the most travelled roadway abutting each pond; and*
- 3) that businesses that publish maps of the City of Vaughan that are offered for sale to the general public be supplied with both a list of the named ponds and a map of the City upon which the location and names of the ponds have been indicated, with the request that future editions of such maps as published by them indicate the location of each pond and incorporate their assigned names; and*
- 4) that this policy be applied as additional storm water management ponds are built across the City."*

Part A: Proposed Naming Policy

The previously noted Council report indicated that

"The easiest means of achieving this end is to lay down a simple procedure. For instance, along a regional road with several such ponds, the largest could take its name from the regional road, and all others from the next busiest of abutting streets. In this rather logical way, the name of each pond will be quickly established in the public's mind, and reinforced with simple but effective signage, something equivalent to the standard local street sign, posted between each pond and the street from which its name derives."

Staff has reviewed the above noted approach and recommend that the following be adopted as the policy for the naming of the City's storm water management (SWM), ponds:

1. SWM ponds that are located on the same property as a City-owned park or open space, shall incorporate the park or open space's name into the pond name. For example, the SWM pond at the Sugarbush Heritage Park would be named the "Sugarbush Storm Water Management Pond".
2. SWM ponds located on lands containing City-owned facilities, such as the City's Joint Operations Centre, shall be named after the facility, or a derivative of. For example, the SWM pond fronting on Rutherford Road at the City's Joint Operations Centre, would be named the "J.O.C. Storm Water Management Pond".
3. SWM ponds that are not part of a City-owned park or facility, and front onto a Regional road, shall be named in after the Regional road fronting the pond, and the closest intersecting street. For example, the SWM pond located on the north side of Major Mackenzie Avenue, just west of Melville Avenue, would be named the "Major Mackenzie / Melville Storm Water Management Pond".
4. SWM ponds that only front onto local streets, shall be named in accordance with the street where there is public access to the pond and the closest intersecting street. For example, the storm pond located on the east side of Creditstone Road, north of and Graniteridge Road, would be named the "Creditstone/Granitridge Storm Water Management Pond".

5. In cases where SWM ponds only front onto local streets, and where there are multiple access points to the pond, staff be given sufficient latitude to name the ponds in accordance with the general principles noted above, taking into account: the abutting major and minor streets, existing storm ponds names (where they may exist), and other related factors.

Part B – Sign Design

The previous Council report noted that the type of sign that was to be installed at the City's SWM ponds was to be a "low cost sign", similar in nature to a street name sign. In accordance with the foregoing, staff has prepared a version of the proposed SWM pond signage.

Attachment 1 is based on a common 30 cm x 90 cm aluminium sign blank. The cost to produce this type of sign has been estimated to be \$120 per sign, excluding hardware. Mounting of the sign would be done on a single, stand-alone post.

In keeping with the intent of the previous report to transform the ponds, "*into a neighbourhood amenity rather than a functional feature, bonus streetscaping rather than an engineering necessity*", staff also prepared a more elaborate sign design.

Attachment 2 is similar in nature to the signs located at the City's parks. It is larger in size than the sign shown in Attachment 1, and is estimated to cost approximately \$2,000 per sign. Mounting would be done on two wood or metal posts.

There are approximately 140 SWM ponds in the City. The total cost for signage and hardware based on Attachment 1, would be approximately \$25,000. The total cost for signage and hardware based on Attachment 2, would be approximately \$280,000. Installation costs are estimated to be \$29,955, based on using seasonal labourers.

In reflection of the growing emergence of these ponds on community amenities, staff recommend the adoption of signing depicted on Attachment 2. This design reflects consistency with signage at other City owned amenities such as community parks.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and ties into the following Vaughan Vision 20/20 Goals and Objectives:

Goal: Organizational Excellence
Objective: Manage Corporate Assets

Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications as a result of the recommendations contained in this report.

Conclusion

In accordance with Council's previous direction, it is recommended that the proposed policy for naming SWM ponds, as outlined in this report, be approved.

Given the previous recommendation to install low cost signage, and at the same time transform the ponds into neighbourhood amenities, Council direction is respectfully requested with respect to the type of signage that is to be installed at the City's storm water management ponds.

Installation of such signage is conditional upon the approval of the Additional Resource Request contained in the 2012 Water/Wastewater Budget.

Depending upon Council's direction, the Additional Resource Request in the draft 2012 Water/Wastewater Budget may require adjusting downward.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Sign "A" (30 cm x 90 cm aluminium sign blank)

Attachment 2 – Sign "B", (custom design)

Report prepared by:

Brian T. Anthony, Director of Public Works Ext 6116

Respectfully submitted,

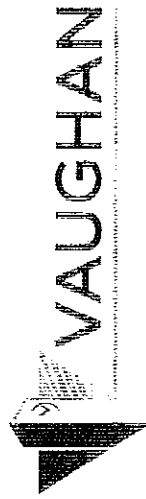
Paul Jankowski, P. Eng
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Brian T. Anthony, CRS-S, C. Tech
Director of Public Works

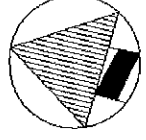
ATTACHMENT No. 1

RUTHERFORD / MELVILLE

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT POND



POND # (XX)



SIGN "A" - STANDARD ALUMINIUM SIGN
STORM WATER MANAGEMENT POND SIGNAGE

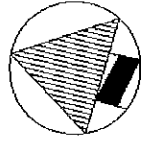
NOT TO SCALE

ATTACHMENT No. 2



**RUTHERFORD / MELVILLE
STORM WATER MANAGEMENT POND**

POND # (XX)



SIGN "B" - CUSTOM DESIGN
STORM WATER MANAGEMENT POND SIGNAGE

NOT TO SCALE